



PRESS RELEASE

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VALUE OF WASHINGTON'S 2004 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AT RECORD \$5.94 BILLION

OLYMPIA, Wash., October 20, 2005-- According to data released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Washington Agricultural Statistics Service (WASS), the value of Washington's 2004 agricultural production reached a record \$5.94 billion. "The total value of production has increased for the fourth straight year and tops the previous high in 1995," said Chris Messer, State Director of the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service.

"Even though certain crops may vary slightly in total production from year to year, overall agricultural production in this state remains strong," said Valoria Loveland, director of the state Department of Agriculture. "Of our top 40 commodities, 11 rank number-one in the nation in production. Our agricultural products are known throughout the world not only for quantity, but also for their quality."

Top Five: Apples continue to top the list with a value of production of \$962 million, 18.3 percent below 2003. Apples represented 16 percent of the total agricultural value produced. Milk ranked second with a value of \$861 million, 28 percent above the \$675 million in 2003. The value of wheat, at \$524 million, increased 0.6 percent over 2003, ranking third. Cattle slipped by potatoes for fourth place, at \$476 million. Rounding out the top five was potatoes with production valued at \$460 million, a decrease of 6.0 percent from last year. These five commodities had a combined value of \$3.28 billion, or 55 percent of the 2004 total value for all commodities. The same five commodities in 2003 had a combined value of \$3.34 billion, and 57 percent of the total value for all commodities. Comparable figures in 2002 were \$3.16 billion and 56 percent, respectively.

Record Highs: Record high values of production were recorded for milk, all hay, wrinkled seed peas, all cherries, all pears, Kentucky Bluegrass seed and blueberries. The value of production for milk was \$861 million compared with the previous high of \$847 million set in 1998. All hay was \$377 million, compared with the second highest value of \$375 million set in 2002. Wrinkled seed peas' 2004 value was \$10 million compared with previous high of \$8 million recorded in 1998. Cherries (both sweet and tart) had an estimated \$242 million, with 2003's \$176 million in second place. Kentucky Bluegrass contributed \$28 million to the economy compared with \$26 million in 2000. Bartlett and winter pears growers contributed \$133 million to the States economy surpassing 2003's previous record of \$129 million. Blueberries generated \$16.0 million in 2004 compared with the previous record of \$12.1 million last year.

Commodity Groups/Government Payments: Field Crops had the highest value of all commodity groups in 2004 with \$1.80 billion, 4.0 percent above 2003. The Livestock group was close behind with \$1.68 billion, 15.8 percent above the previous year. In third place was Fruits and Nuts at \$1.49 billion, a drop of 10 percent from 2003. Specialty products rose in 2004 to \$535 million from \$504 million last year. Rounding out the groups were Commercial Vegetables, at \$366 million, and berry crops at \$78.8 million. Another way to evaluate each crop is to look at the value per harvested acre, which reflects both the yield and price. Sweet cherries topped the list for 2004 with a value of \$8,159 per acre. Next in line were non-storage onions with a value of \$8,050 per acre and blueberries with a value of \$6,667 per harvested acre. Government payments in 2004 totaled \$197 million, less than 4 percent of the total value. This was 26 percent below the previous year.

Top Forty Agricultural Commodities, Washington, 2002-2004

Commodity	Rank	Value of Production			Change 2004 vs 2003
	2004	2002	2003	2004	
		Thousand Dollars			Percent
Apples	1	1,023,000	1,178,020	962,458	-18.3%
Milk	2	674,400	675,301	861,144	27.5%
Wheat, All	3	496,873	521,163	524,493	0.6%
Cattle & Calves	4	451,016	475,522	476,099	0.1%
Potatoes, Fall	5	512,487	489,038	459,669	-6.0%
Hay, All	6	375,366	336,881	376,512	11.8%
Nursery & Greenhouse Products 1/	7	300,671	310,085	328,931	6.1%
Cherries, All	8	151,385	175,610	242,018	37.8%
Pears, All	9	116,437	129,152	132,902	2.9%
Forest Products, Farm 2/	10	140,000	120,000	130,000	8.3%
Grapes, All	11	134,605	149,672	127,455	-14.8%
Broilers 3/	12	65,078	74,904	98,224	31.1%
Aquaculture (including trout eggs & fish)	13	89,690	84,239	89,363	6.1%
Onions, All	14	112,538	140,763	86,729	-38.4%
Eggs	15	55,460	70,323	77,348	10.0%
Hops	16	83,288	71,513	76,640	7.2%
Sweet Corn, All	17	72,247	76,900	68,474	-11.0%
Corn for Grain	18	37,772	40,950	60,900	48.7%
Christmas Trees	19	60,000	60,000	60,000	-
Corn for Silage	20	53,040	45,750	51,545	12.7%
Asparagus, All	21	44,893	43,277	49,420	14.2%
Red Raspberries	22	36,985	36,554	46,635	27.6%
Mint Oil	23	43,254	41,768	44,911	7.5%
Barley	24	49,504	38,756	34,643	-10.6%
Kentucky Bluegrass Seed	25	18,915	20,625	28,000	35.8%
Haylage	26	18,011	20,250	21,600	6.7%
Green Peas, Processing	27	13,804	20,439	20,287	-0.7%
Lentils	28	17,024	16,562	17,968	8.5%
Blueberries	29	9,741	12,068	16,000	32.6%
Agaricus Mushrooms	30	14,497	13,525	15,877	17.4%
Dry Edible Beans	31	16,517	11,025	14,616	32.6%
Dry Edible Peas	32	13,452	10,824	14,616	35.0%
Alfalfa Seed	33	14,280	13,260	11,770	-11.2%
Carrots, Processing	34	8,730	10,740	11,038	2.8%
Wrinkled Seed Peas	35	6,144	7,038	10,005	42.2%
Other Grass Seed	36	5,900	6,900	9,000	30.4%
Peaches	37	13,420	9,228	7,502	-18.7%
Strawberries	38	8,262	8,436	7,270	-13.8%
Cranberries	39	5,758	6,691	6,568	-1.8%
Apricots	40	5,509	5,387	6,260	16.2%
Total Top 40 Value of Production		\$5,369,953	\$5,579,139	\$5,684,890	1.9%
Total Value of Production		\$5,585,653	\$5,822,172	\$5,942,091	2.2%

1/ Includes floriculture. 2/ Value of forest products sold from operations meeting the USDA farm definition.

3/ Washington Fryer Commission total weight multiplied by USDA US average bird liveweight price per pound.

Value of Production and Government Payments, Washington, 1995-2004

Year	Field Crops	Fruits & Nuts	Commercial Vegetables	Berry Crops	Total Crops	Specialty Products 1/	Livestock & Products	Total Value of Prod.	Govt. Paymts.	Total Value 2/
1,000 Dollars										
1995	2,121,180	1,351,311	317,143	53,159	3,842,793	682,704	1,396,058	5,921,555	116,062	6,037,617
1996	2,083,200	1,232,736	307,635	54,431	3,678,002	619,731	1,457,443	5,755,176	155,364	5,910,540
1997	1,869,686	1,235,820	357,558	50,183	3,513,247	577,012	1,447,592	5,537,851	147,263	5,685,114
1998	1,648,070	1,070,299	357,016	40,405	3,115,790	584,544	1,542,459	5,242,793	260,524	5,503,317
1999	1,617,658	1,233,033	299,306	66,252	3,216,249	592,518	1,553,370	5,362,137	270,594	5,632,731
2000	1,697,526	1,164,734	329,667	46,739	3,238,666	587,994	1,519,056	5,345,716	352,503	5,698,219
2001	1,750,181	1,315,196	310,235	61,534	3,437,146	535,386	1,604,115	5,576,647	298,784	5,875,431
2002	1,798,986	1,450,719	361,775	62,378	3,673,858	515,334	1,396,461	5,585,653	215,911	5,801,564
2003	1,730,268	1,653,018	419,806	66,161	3,869,253	503,751	1,449,168	5,822,172	265,396	6,087,568
2004	1,798,977	1,485,034	365,930	78,762	3,728,703	534,974	1,678,414	5,942,091	197,011	6,139,102

1/ Includes forest products, Christmas trees, floriculture, nursery and other horticultural products, and mushrooms.

2/ Includes government payments.

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